

Claim 11 (original) The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the optical module has an engagement protrusion, and said optical module housing has an engagement groove that is engaged with the engagement protrusion when the optical module is attached to the optical module housing.

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, and 6 have been amended. Applicants refer to Fig. 16 and page 18, line 13 to page 19, line 11 of the specification for supporting said claim amendments. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 7-10 contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, applicants have amended claim 7 to independent form. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 3-6, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kusuda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,644,866). In response, applicant amended independent claims 1, 3, and 6 in a good faith effort to further clarify the claimed invention as distinguished from the applied reference. The Examiner's rejection is, therefore, respectfully traversed.

As amended, independent claim 1 recites, in part,

"said connector housing is configured to be connected to an optical module housing which is separate from said optical module so that said optical module is inserted into the insertion part through the optical module housing." (Emphasis added)

Independent claims 3 and 6 have been amended to include similar limitations.

The Examiner cited Fig. 18 and the corresponding description in Kusuda et al. in the claim rejection. In Fig. 18, Kusuda et al. disclose a connector 207 mounted on a printed board 95 and a connector 215 mounted on a backboard 107 into which the connector 207 is inserted. The printed board has a lever 206 attached to the printed board 95 on a side opposite to the side where the connector 207 is located. A connector 217 connected to an optical fiber 148 is connected to the connector 215 mounted on the backboard 107.

Therefore, the cited portions of Kusuda et al., relied upon by the Examiner, does not disclose "an optical module housing which is separate from said optical module so that said optical module is inserted into the insertion part through the optical module housing," as recited in amended claim 1. (Emphasis added)

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, together with claim 2 dependent therefrom, is patentable over Kusuda et al. Amended independent claims 3 and 6 include limitations similar to those from claim 1 discussed above. They, together with claims 2-5 and 11 dependent therefrom, respectively, are, therefore, patentable over Kusuda et al. for at least the same reasons.

The Examiner stated in paragraph 6 of the Office Action that claims 7-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten claim 7 in independent form. Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that claim 7, together with claims 8-10 dependent therefrom, is in condition for allowance. Applicants further submit that the

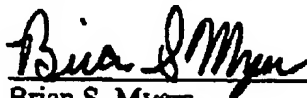
Examiner's reasons for allowing claims 7-10 are non-exhaustive, and that such reasons in no way limit the scope thereof.

Statements appearing above in respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees with any of such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

It is respectfully submitted that the present claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of this case and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted


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